

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01333 251044Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 SSM-03 ACDA-07 MCT-01  
EUR-12 /086 W

-----251056Z 099211 /17

O 251014Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3448  
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 1333

JOINT DEFENSE/STATE MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, LE  
SUBJECT: CONFRONTATION EASED BETWEEN PRES SARKIS AND GEN HANNA SAID

REF: BEIRUT 1320 (DTG 241405Z MAR 77)

1. POTENTIAL COLLISION BETWEEN PRESIDENT SARKIS AND  
LEBANESE FRONT OVER DISMISSAL OF GEN HANNA SAID HAS EASED  
WITH SAID'S REQUEST FOR HIS OFFICERS TO SUPPORT SARKIS  
GOVERNMENT. DESPITE EARLIER SABER-RATTLING THREATS TO GO SOUTH,  
SAID APPARENTLY BACKED DOWN IN ADDRESS TO CHRISTIAN OFFICERS  
MARCH 24 AND REFUSED TO POLITICIZE THE ARMY AGAINST THE  
GOVERNMENT. AN NAHAR MARCH 25 QUOTES HIM AS SAYING THAT  
ARMY MUST BE "READY TO PERFORM ANY MISSION ASSIGNED TO IT  
BY THE SUPREME AUTHORITY REPRESENTED BY PRESIDENT SARKIS."

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DISCUSSIONS WITH VARIOUS CHRISTIAN OFFICERS AFTER SAID'S  
SPEECH REVEAL WIDE RANGE OF REACTION AFTER HIS CALL  
FOR MODERATION. MUSLIM OFFICERS, ALTHOUGH NOT PRESENT AT  
ASSEMBLY, ARE VERY ENCOURAGED BY GEN SAID'S ATTITUDE.

2. PRESIDENT SARKIS HAS ALLEGEDLY STATED IN PRIVATE THAT  
HE IS DETERMINED TO APPOINT A NEW CINC BY 28 MARCH REGARD-

LESS OF SYRIAN OR LEBANESE FRONT OPPOSITION. ALTHOUGH  
SIMONE SOUHEID STILL SEEMS LEADING CANDIDATE, SARKIS IS  
APPARENTLY TRYING TO KEEP OPPOSITION OFF BALANCE BY HINTING  
THAT SEVERAL OTHER NAMES ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION.

3. CHRISTIAN OFFICERS HAVE REPORTEDLY SCHEDULED A RASH  
OF MEETINGS 26 MARCH TO CONSIDER SAID'S SPEECH AND THEIR  
REACTION SHOULD SARKIS APPOINT NEW ARMY COMMENDER. SEEMS  
HARD TO BELIEVE EVEN MOST EXTREMIST MARONITES WOULD ADOPT  
SUICIDAL COURSE OF REBELLION AGAINST SARKIS, PARTICULARLY  
IF HANNA SAID REFUSES TO LEAD THEM, UNLESS THEY HAVE  
SYRIAN SUPPORT. WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING TO INDICATE THAT THIS  
IS THE CASE.

PARKER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL MILITARY RELATIONS, REMOVAL FROM OFFICE  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Reference:** 77 BEIRUT 1320  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3001887  
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**Subject:** CONFRONTATION EASED BETWEEN PRES SARKIS AND GEN HANNA SAID  
**TAGS:** PINT, LE, (SARKIS, ELIAS), (SAID, HANNA)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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22 May 2009  
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